

Changing Times

Ecclesiastes 3:1-9

Review

1. Hedonism is futile. No pleasures last forever.
2. Materialism is futile. No possessions last forever.
3. Putting faith in power over institutions is futile. No war can permanently bring peace.
4. Looking for ultimate meaning in human relationships is futile. Love and life don't last forever, at least not in this world.
5. Stoicism is unsatisfying – merely saying “whatever will be will be” lowers our expectations and prevents us from trying to make a difference.
6. Solomon is right when we limit our view to that which is “under heaven.” But in Jesus Christ, Heaven came crashing into our world, to uproot sin, to destroy death.
7. The followers of Jesus have in fact made a big difference in this world.

Go Further: Read Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26

1. To justify writing this book, what personal qualification does the Preacher mention in 1:12? Which one does he mention in 1:13 and 1:16?
2. How does the preacher sum up his teaching in 1:14? In what place or context is this teaching true?
3. In what does the preacher seek meaning in 2:1 and 2:3?
4. In what does the preacher seek meaning in 2:4-6?
5. In what does the preacher seek meaning in 2:7-8?
6. What conclusion does the preacher draw in 2:9-11?
7. In what does the preacher seek meaning in 2:12-13?
8. Why does the preacher say in 2:14-15 that even this is unsatisfying?
9. Why does the preacher say in 2:18-19 that his labor is unsatisfying?
10. Read 2:20-23. If we only consider the world “under the sun” is this conclusion correct?
11. What conclusion does the preacher come to in 2:24-26? Why is this so different from that in 2:20-23?

Application:

1. Can you think of an example of someone who was disappointed when they put their faith in pleasure, in material things, in power, in work, or in human love or wisdom?
2. How can a Christian put pleasure, material things, power, human love and human wisdom into their proper place in life?
3. How does looking at life from a heavenly perspective move us to make a difference for the Kingdom of God in our lives?